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WT Docket No. 18-197

Steven Fletcher

Personal Opposition to the Proposed Sprint and T-Mobile Merger

I, STEVEN FLETCHER OPPOSE THE PROPOSED T-MOBILE – SPRINT MERGER ON THE GROUNDS OF INCREASED AND CONTINUED LACK OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SITE RADIATION FREQUENCY SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ALL WORKERS AT SPRINT AND T-MOBILE WIRELESS SITES. THIS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE FCC’S RADIO FREQUENCY HUMAN EXPOSURE REGULATIONS. THE INABILITY FOR WORKERS TO OBTAIN SITE RF SAFETY INFORMATION AT SPRINT AND T-MOBILE WIRELESS SITES IS A CRISIS THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AND NOT BE IGNORED ANY LONGER.

BOTH COMPANIES, SPRINT AND T-MOBILE, ARE IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THEIR FCC RF HUMAN EXPOSURE OBLIGATIONS WHEN WORKERS, BOTH TELECOM AND NON-TELECOM WORKERS, ARE EXPOSED TO RF EMISSIONS ABOVE THE DEFINED RF LIMITS.

AS A CONDITION FOR TRANSFERING THEIR FCC LICENSES, SPRINT AND T-MOBILE MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THE FCC RULES, 47 CFR 1.1307(b) WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM BEING OVER-EXPOSED TO RADIO FREQUENCY EMISSIONS WHILE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THEIR RF TRANSMITTING ANTENNAS. NEITHER SPRINT NOR T-MOBILE CAN DEMONSTRATE THEY CAN ENSURE INNOCENT WORKERS LIKE MYSELF WILL NOT BE OVER-EXPOSED TO THEIR RF RADIATION.

DID YOU KNOW THAT GLOBAL INSURERS HAVE PULLED OUT OF THE RF EXPOSURE INSURANCE MARKET BECAUSE THEY FEEL THE RISK OF INSURING BUILDINGS WITH RF TRANSMITTING ANTENNAS IS TOO GREAT OF A RISK FOR THEIR COMPANIES? IF SPRINT AND T-MOBILE, WHO REPRESENT A LARGE PORTION OF THE ANTENNA SITES WERE ABLE TO ENSURE INNOCENT WORKERS WOULD NOT BE OVER-EXPOSED TO RF RADIATION FROM THEIR ANTENNA SITES, THEN WHY WOULD GLOBAL INSURERS EXIT THE RF EXPOSURE INSURANCE MARKET?

WAKE UP FCC. WAKE UP SPRINT. WAKE UP T-MOBILE. WORKERS LIKE MYSELF AND OTHERS DESERVE NOT TO BE INJURED FROM THE INVISIBLE RF RADIATION EMISSIONS FROM FREQUENCIES THAT SPRINT AND T-MOBILE PURCHASED FROM THE FCC TO MAKE THEIR NETWORKS WORK! THE WORKERS OF AMERICA ARE NOT BEING PROTECTED FROM RF EXPOSURE AT WIRELESS SITES ACROSS OUR NATION AND YOU GUYS KNOW IT!

My name is Steven Fletcher. I'm 31 years old, married, head of household and a father of 4 young children. I have been working in the telecom industry for about 6 years. My employer was a national cell site contractor. We built, modified and maintained cell sites. My employer's company is owned by the 2nd largest wireless equipment manufacturer in the world.

16 months ago, I was over-exposed to RF radiation from RF transmitting antennas at a Sprint cell site, which also had T-Mobile antennas. We were doing upgrades and modifications for Sprint, however, T-Mobile was also collocated on the rooftop site as well.

The roof had restricted access (door lock), and there were a couple of vague signs about RF, but obviously, restricted access and a couple of ambiguous signs are insufficient to ensure workers, like myself and workmates, are not over-exposed to dangerous RF RADIATION.

I can't believe that after continued notifications to the FCC and others by entities concerned about RF safety at wireless sites, including unions, Congressional members and others (FCC WEBSITE), that nothing resulting in RF safety has occurred.

I know the Honorable Chairman Pai is a good person with a loving family and I'm sure the CEO's of Sprint and T-Mobile are also very kind and loving people. As such I have a question: Would any of you allow your children or loved ones to be in close proximity to RF transmitting antennas without being 100% certain they had site RF exposure information so that they would not be injured?

Had I received site RF safety information, I would not have been injured. I could have easily changed the location of the electrical junction box that I mounted between the antennas, utilized flexible conduit, and I would have never been in the hazardous RF areas in front of the antennas. It's that simple.

My employer would have been able to provide a safe work environment for me, the building owner would not be in jeopardy of a lawsuit, both Sprint and T-Mobile, however primarily Sprint, would not be in jeopardy of a lawsuit, and whoever ever else my law firm names in the tort case also would not be involved.

My exposure occurred on March 29, 2017, and since then, I have had horrific health issues to deal with. On top of the fact, there are virtually no medical doctors that can either recognize or treat RF radiation exposures.

I have the following questions for the FCC, Sprint and T-Mobile:

- How can our nation with hundreds of thousands of wireless sites that emit hazardous RF radiation which is a known federal health hazard since 1966 (OSHA/ANSI), not give a damn about protecting innocent workers from the invisible RF that makes our wireless world work?
- How can the FCC not ensure that innocent workers like me and thousands of others who may work around the RF hazard areas near transmitting antennas are provided site RF safety information?
- Why has the medical community been over looked, and they are not providing RF radiation medical training to doctors to diagnose RF exposure symptoms and treat RF over-exposure injuries?
- Why is there no material safety data sheet on RF radiation like there is for every other potentially hazardous product so workers know what symptoms to look for if they've been over-exposed?
 - Is this because the FCC took over the RF safety role that OSHA once had? OSHA has a safety standard for every product and if someone can be injured by a product, that product comes with a "Material Safety Data Sheet" to alert the user of its dangers and also disclose what the symptoms are if someone has been over-exposed to the hazard.

No one is ensuring workers are protected; not Sprint, not T-Mobile, and not the FCC either. I guess Sprint, T-Mobile, and the FCC don't put much value on workers, whether telecom or non-telecom, who get near the Sprint or T-Mobile RF transmitting antennas.

My life has been changed forever. If it was AT&T or Verizon included in a merger, I would oppose that as well on the same lack of providing RF safety information to us poor hard-working Americans. Why don't we get the protections other industries provide their workers? Why have we been left behind so Sprint and T-Mobile can count their profits? It's not right.

Why do we even have federal RF exposure standards if they just sit on a desk collecting dust?

I'm going to file suit against all the carriers that were located on the building that I was injured on and here is something you should know:

1. I don't care about the money, and I will not settle until justice is done.
2. I want to make sure no one else has to go through what I'm going through as a result of not having site RF safety information.
3. I hope my lawsuit serves as a platform for other injured workers to seek help.
4. I hope it makes headlines in every major newspaper across the US.
5. I hope Sprint and others have to publicly apologize for their cover-ups. They all know about this issue, and I think there are 1,000's of RF trained technicians and other Sprint and T-Mobile employees that will testify as such. Their actions are criminal.
6. This isn't any thing like cell phone hand sets and brain cancer. RF transmitting antennas can emit 1,200 watts of RF energy while a hand set is less than a watt of RF energy. A household microwave oven operates at 800 Watts. It doesn't take long to cook something at 800 Watts, so why should Sprint and T-Mobile be allowed to injure workers like myself with this hazardous and invisible RF radiation?

As a result of the Sprint / T-Mobile proposed merger, more people will have the chance to suffer RF injuries by one employer's poor RF safety practices. They could suffer symptoms like mine, which include constant ringing in my ears, debilitating migraine headaches, vision and balance issues, depression, digestive issues, reduced cognitive abilities including having trouble answering basic questions, and mood swings.

Every worker has a God given right to know the where job site hazards are located, especially the invisible RF emissions.

I also know this it is happening to non-telecom industry workers like roofers, painters, HVAC technicians, electricians, and window washers. I've seen them work around the antennas, and they have no clue that they shouldn't be near

them. One time I saw an HVAC tech who was literally standing directly in front of a live antenna, and he didn't even know it. When I went over and told him he needed to move away from the antenna, it was almost like he wasn't responding in real time. He acted confused and dazed.

We had some RF safety practices at my company, but they were horrible, not even safe, and I still got injured. Their standards do not protect workers. The current "safety plan" totally failed me and was wrong and both Sprint and T-Mobile, in spite of their FCC obligations, did nothing to ensure I wasn't over-exposed at the site they are co-located on.

Not protecting workers when they are close to the invisible RF radiation near Sprint and T-Mobile antennas is a huge problem. I know other workers like myself that have been injured to a lesser degree but they're afraid to say anything for fear of losing their jobs. Sprint and T-Mobile CEO's and FCC, would you want you kid to be placed in that type of a situation?

The fact that we have good phone coverage and the ability to text and stream data should not be a justification to injure people. I truly believe that when the large number of non-telecom workers realize what caused their injuries, you Sprint, you T-Mobile and you FCC should suffer very negative consequences. I hope the law suits last for decades and your companies suffer and the FCC gets recognized for being a shill for the wireless carriers. You all deserve it.

The medical people also need to know how to treat RF.

So again:

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